

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 305540
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
OES-07 EB-08 L-03 /055 R

DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:TJWAJDA:PAP
APPROVED BY EA/ANP:EHURWITZ
EUR/SOV:JTREICHEL
PM:ISO:JBURGESS

-----130896 230511Z /11

P R 222353Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
JCS WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
CINCPAC CAM HM SMITH HI

S E C R E T STATE 305540

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR

SUBJECT:PROPOSED SOVIET RESEARCH VESSEL/SUBMARINE VISIT

REF: USDAO CANBERRA 200612Z

1. WING COMMANDER BECK OF AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE ATTACHE
OFFICE TELEPHONED JAMES TREICHEL OF EUR/SOV DECEMBER 21
TO PURSUE QUERIES IN PARA 2 REF A. TREICHEL INFORMED BECK
THAT ACCESS OF SOVIET NON-FISHERIES RESEARCH VESSEL TO
US PORTS IS REGULATED BY US-USSR MARITIME AGREEMENT OF
DECEMBER 29, 1975. MARITIME AGREEMENT PROVIDES ACCESS ON
BASIS OF 4-DAY ADVANCE NOTICE FOR THE SHIPS OF EACH

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 305540

COUNTRY TO FORTY PORTS OF THE OTHER COUNTRY. PORTS ARE
LISTED IN ANNEXES 1 AND 2 OF AGREEMENT. THE AGREEMENT
APPLIES TO MERCHANT SHIPS, MERCHANT TRAINING SHIPS,
AND "HYDROGRAPHIC, OCEANOGRAPHIC, METEOROLOGICAL, OR
TERRESTRIAL MAGNETIC FIELD RESEARCH FOR CIVIL APPLICATION."
(ARTICLE 1(A)(III)). AGREEMENT DOES NOT APPLY TO: WARSHIPS
AS DEFINED IN 1958 GENEVA CONVENTION ON HIGH SEAS, VESSELS

CARRYING OUT ANY STATE FUNCTION NOT COVERED IN PREVIOUS SENTENCE (I.E. MERCHANT SHIPS, MERCHANT TRAINERS, AND RESEARCH SHIPS), OR FISHING VESSEL AND RESEARCH SHIPS.

2. TREICHEL ALSO TOLD BECK THAT LISTS OF SOVIET AND US RESEARCH VESSELS WHICH MAY BE INVOLVED IN BILATERAL RESEARCH ACTIVITY ARE ATTACHED TO MARITIME AGREEMENT. SOME OF THESE ARE OWNED AND OPERATED BY THE RESPECTIVE NAVIES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE LEONID SOBOLEV IS ON THE SOVIET LIST WITH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION: OWNED AND OPERATED BY SOVIET NAVY, CONSTRUCTED 1974, LENGTH: 148 METERS, DISPLACEMENT: 9,2000 TONS.; OPERATING CREW: 148 PERSONS, INSTRUCTORS/SCIENTISTS: 40.

3. FYI. TREICHEL EXPLAINED TO BECK THAT AS A MATTER OF PRACTICE THE SOVIET EMBASSY ASKED PERMISSION FOR RESEARCH VESSEL PORT CALLS AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE, RATHER THAN GIVING SIMPLE FOUR-DAY NOTICE. THIS APPEARED TO REFLECT BUREAUCRATIC PROBLEM ON SOVIET SIDE, SINCE SOVIET EMBASSY ACTED FOR VARIETY OF SOVIET ORGANIZATIONS WHICH OWN AND OPERATE RESEARCH SHIPS. EMBASSY APPARENTLY WISHES TO BE CERTAIN WELL IN ADVANCE THAT PORT CALLS ARE APPROVED. END FYI.

4. LATER ON DECEMBER 21, AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE ATTACHE FALKLAND WAS GIVEN BRIEFING PAPER WITH FOLLOWING
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 305540

TALKING POINTS:

-- FOR SOME YEARS THE SOVIETS HAVE DEPLOYED "F" CLASS SUBMARINES (NOTE: THIS POINT IN ERROR, OTHER VESSELS HAVE BEEN OF THE "Z" CLASS) CONVERTED FOR OCEANOGRAPHIC WORK. THEY RARELY MAKE PORT VISITS.

-- THE SOVIET SUBMARINE SIRIUS, PENDANT 879, WHICH IS INTENDED TO VISIT AUSTRALIA IS A MODIFIED "F" CLASS SUBMARINE ON ITS FIRST DEPLOYMENT. WE SUSPECT THAT IT HAS A NAVAL CREW, AND PROBABLY EMBARKED SCIENTISTS. (NOTE: WE NOW QUESTION WHETHER IT IS MODIFIED AND BELIEVE SIRIUS TO BE A FLEET UNIT.)

-- IF THE SOVIETS PROPOSED A SIMILAR VISIT TO THE US, WE WOULD CAREFULLY REVIEW THE ENTIRE ISSUE, INCLUDING WHETHER THE VESSEL WAS TO BE OPEN TO THE US SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY, AND SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS IN THE APPLICABLE US PORT. (NOTE: WE WOULD GIVE SUCH A REQUEST THE CLOSEST SCRUTINY.)

-- THERE HAS BEEN ONLY ONE EXCHANGE OF US-USSR COMBATANT

SHIP VISITS SINCE WWII; IT WAS NEGOTIATED AT VERY HIGH LEVELS.

-- THERE IS NO ESTABLISHED NATO PROCEDURE; NATIONAL SHIP VISIT POLICIES VARY WIDELY AMONG OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES.

5. US-SOVIET MARITIME AGREEMENT CONTAINED IN TIAS 8195. COPY BEING POUCHED TO CANBERRA.

6. SINCE WRITING ABOVE, NEW ZEALAND EMBOFF (LARKINDALE) CALLED AT DEPARTMENT AND INDICATED GNZ EXPECTED REQUEST FROM USSR FOR PERMISSION FOR SOBOLEV AND SIRIUS TO CALL AT NEW ZEALAND PORT. ALL OF ABOVE INFORMATION WAS GIVEN TO HIM. VANCE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 305540

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, SUBMARINES, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: TJWAJDA:PAP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770478-1165
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From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Page Count: 3
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 143551
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED SOVIET RESEARCH VESSEL/SUBMARINE VISIT
TAGS: MARR
To: CANBERRA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d3cfcafd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
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